

Dell, Eric has a distinguished career in South Carolina public service. He served as an intern to Senator Strom Thurmond and Governor Carroll Campbell. He managed the final campaign of my predecessor, the late Congressman Floyd Spence. He was the first-ever Republican chief of staff of the State Senate Transportation Committee.

I appreciate Eric's success and his training of his successor, Dino Teppara, who has served capably as legislative director for the Second District.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

#### CUTS TO MEDICARE PHYSICIAN REIMBURSEMENT

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, we have a problem. Without immediate congressional action, there are seniors in our country who will not receive medical care from their doctor next year. Payments to physicians who provide health care services to Medicare patients will be cut by over 5 percent as of January 1, 2007. If Congress fails to act before we adjourn this year, this cut will automatically go into effect. The result will be reduced access to care for Medicare patients across our Nation. Older Americans should not have to worry that their doctors will be forced to stop treating them because Congress did not act.

At a time when physician costs are skyrocketing, we cannot expect our doctors to lose money when they treat Medicare patients. There is still time to act, but the clock is ticking, and seniors are looking to Congress for leadership on this important issue.

The 109th Congress will soon end. It would be an outrage and a dereliction of duty if the Republican Congress, in its final days, does not fix this serious problem to avert a potential health care crisis for millions of our fellow Americans.

I urge that we pass a Medicare reimbursement fix before we leave this week.

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#### COMMEMORATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RABBIT HASH GENERAL STORE

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Rabbit Hash General Store. Rabbit Hash, located on the banks of the Ohio River, has a very special place in the heart of Kentuckians. I have a picture of the legendary general store hanging here in my office on Capitol Hill, and it seems that near-

ly every constituent that visits has a story to share about this very unique place.

After all, how many towns can say that they have elected a dog as their mayor twice. Rabbit Hash General Store traces its roots back to 1831 when it was first constructed to store goods awaiting the arrival of steamboats traveling on the Ohio River. The general store has remained in continuous operation since then, withstanding the test of time and of Mother Nature. The unique engineering of a blacksmith in the 1880s locks the structure of the general store in place when the waters of the Ohio begin to rise.

Rabbit Hash has been listed on the Register of National Historic Places, and in 2002 was sold to the Rabbit Hash Historical Society to ensure preservation for future generations of Kentuckians. I am extremely proud of those who kept this small community vibrant over the years and am excited to share in their celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Rabbit Hash General Store.

#### "FLAT STANLEY" PROJECT

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about a project that a student in our district is participating in. Emily Leal is a first grade student and an excellent student at Roosevelt Elementary School and contacted me about the Flat Stanley project. Roosevelt is a recognized school for its quality and also happens to be the elementary school in our district that I went to.

This national project, originally designed by Arthur Brown in his book, *Flat Stanley*, encourages communication and education among children around the world. Students make a Flat Stanley and start a journal for him. Then he is sent around to schools, professionals, persons in different geographic locations where Flat Stanley is treated as a guest for a few days and this journal is completed.

Flat Stanley and his journal are then returned to the original student who can plot his travels and share the journal for educational purposes with his or her fellow students. Since Emily's first grade class is participating in this project, she is a constituent of mine, and she chose to send Flat Stanley to me so he can visit the floor of Congress in Washington, DC.

Before I return Flat Stanley to Emily this next week, I am going to bring him to the House floor where America's elected officials participate in democracy. I hope that Flat Stanley will have a safe trip back with me to our district, and that Emily's class enjoys reading about his visit to Congress.

#### CONGRATULATING LISA KAPLAN AND BRAD SHERMAN ON THEIR RECENT WEDDING

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to congratulate our colleague, BRAD SHERMAN, and his wonderful new wife, Lisa Kaplan, on their recent wedding. On Sunday, I happily joined Lisa and BRAD at the beautiful Calamigos Ranch in Malibu, where they exchanged their vows surrounded by family and friends.

The groom, as we all know, is a fine and thoughtful gentleman who serves his constituents in southern California with great distinction, and is a dear friend to many of us. The bride is also a charming and wonderful individual. She does important work in the Office of Global Anti-Semitism at the State Department.

Now, I am sorry the newlyweds must spend their honeymoon here in the lame duck session, but I know they have a more romantic trip planned in the near future. I want to congratulate Lisa's father and stepmother, Robert and Peggy Kaplan, and honor the memory of her mother, Carol Weisberg.

I also want to honor the memory of BRAD's father, Maurice Sherman, and congratulate his mom, my dear friend Lane Sherman. To Lisa and BRAD, we wish you a life together of health and happiness. Mazel Tov.

#### THE ECONOMY AND THE DEFICIT

(Mr. CARDOZA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, the past few years the Republican rule in Washington has left our Nation severely crippled with debt. Reckless fiscal policies have turned record surpluses into record deficits in 6 short years. Democrats believe that fiscal responsibility is a crucial ingredient in good government.

When we assume the majority in Congress next year, Democrats in this body will implement a pay-as-you-go plan for spending that will put our Nation back on the right financial path. Pay-as-you-go is the policy that helped us create those record surpluses in the late 1990s, surpluses that have been eliminated with tax breaks for the wealthiest few over the last 6 years. We must be accountable for every dollar that is allocated through this Congress, not constantly passing massive debt on to our children and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, after Republicans refused to live up to their promises of fiscal restraint, the American people turned to Democrats to get our Nation's books out of the red. When the next Congress begins, we will start the process by using commonsense measures such as pay-as-you-go.